[XXXVIth Year.] THE [No. 1771.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, December 22, 1780.

An ACT for calling out of circulation the quota of this state of the bills of credit issued by congress, and the bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, and by the resolves of convention.

WHEREAS congress, on the eighteenth day of March last, recommended to the several states to bring into the continental treasury, by taxes or otherwise, their monthly quotas of fifteen million of dollars, from the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty, to the first day of April, seventeen hundred and eighty-one inclusive, as apportioned by the resolution of the seventh day of October in the preceding year, and to provide that silver and gold should be received in payment of the said quotas, at the rate of one Spanish dollar in lieu of forty dollars of the said bills issued by congress: And whereas the general assembly of this state, from the peculiar situation and extreme exigency of public affairs, were of opinion, that it was expedient to adopt the said recommendation, and to comply with and carry the same into execution as far as possible, but that it was impracticable to call in, by taxes, within the said time limited, the sum required by congress, and to make provision, by taxes, for prosecuting the war; and therefore, to induce the possessors of the said bills voluntarily to bring in and exchange the same for the new bills, by an act passed last June session, did propose and offer to give to the holders of the said bills the six tenths of the new bills, by the said resolve and plan of congress intended to be reserved for the use of this state: And whereas the holders of the said bills have not hitherto accepted the above offer of the general assembly, and there has been only the sum of one hundred and fifteen thousand two hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty ninetieths brought in and exchanged agreeable to the said proposal of the general assembly: And whereas congress, by their resolve of the twenty-sixth day of August last, did earnestly recommend to the several states to take the most speedy and effectual measures in their power for drawing in their respective quotas of the continental bills of credit, to be destroyed, either by tax to be collected immediately, or by exchanging for them new bills, to be emitted pursuant to the act of the tenth day of March last, at a rate not less than forty of the former for one of the latter, so that the whole of the said new bills may be issued: And whereas considerable sums of money were emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, and by resolves of conventions, and the present general assembly are of opinion, that it is expedient and necessary, from the extreme exigency of public affairs, and the great depreciation of the aforesaid bills of credit, and to support the value of the new bills, and to place our finances on a certain and permanent footing, and to enable the state to provide her proportion of men, money, provisions, and other supplies, for prosecuting the present just and necessary war, to call in by exchange, in as short a time as possible, the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit issued by congress, and the bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, and by resolves of the conventions, and are of opinion, that the exchange should be established at the rate of one dollar of the new bills for every forty dollars of the old bills brought in to the commissioner of the continental loan-office in this state to be exchanged: Therefore,

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That after the twentieth day of March next, no bills of credit issued by congress, or acts of assembly during the old government, or resolves of convention, shall, within this state, be deemed paper money, or pass current, or be in law or equity a tender or payment for any debt, covenant, promise, contract, or agreement.

And be it enacted, That any subject of this state, bona fide the possessor and proprietor of any bills of credit issued by congress, or acts of assembly under the old government, or resolves of convention, or bona fide trustee for any subject of this state, for the purpose of exchanging the said bills of credit, may, at any time hereafter, on or before the first day of March next, bring in to the continental loan-office in this state, any of the said bills of credit, and shall be entitled to receive, for every forty dollars so brought in, one dollar of the new bills (emitted agreeable to the resolve of congress of the eighteenth day of March last, and the act for sinking the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress) and in the same proportion for any greater quantity; and any person, after the said first day of March, and before the first day of April next, may bring in to the said loan-office any of the said bills of credit, and be entitled to exchange them at the rate aforesaid; and the commissioner shall receive no more of the said continental bills of credit into his office, than, with the quantity exchanged in virtue of the said act, will amount unto twenty million five hundred and forty thousand dollars; and after the said first day of April next, no bills of credit issued by congress, or acts of assembly under the old government, or resolves of convention, shall be received or exchanged by the said commissioner, nor will this state ever hereafter redeem, or in any manner be answerable for the redemption or sinking of any of the said bills of credit; and one sixth part of the new bills exchanged as aforesaid shall be sunk annually after the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the said act. Provided always, that if so much of the continental money shall not be brought in to the commissioner to be exchanged, as that the balance of the new money, after appropriating four tenths to the use of congress, shall not be sufficient to redeem the act of assembly and convention money which may be brought in in virtue of this act, that then the commissioner shall give a certificate for the assembly and convention money so brought in to be redeemed, as soon as there shall be new money signed in the office to be appropriated by this state.

And be it enacted, That the continental commissioner shall keep an account of the names of all persons who may bring in bills to be exchanged, and the sums each person may bring in, and shall administer, to any person who may bring in any continental bills to be exchanged, on or before the first day of March next, an oath (or affirmation, if a quaker, menonist, or dunker) that such person is a subject of this state, and bona fide the possessor and proprietor of the bills by him offered to be exchanged, or that he is bona fide trustee for some subject of this state, for the purpose of exchanging the bills by him offered; and the said commissioner shall grant a certificate, if required, to any person who may bring money as trustee to be exchanged.

And, For the convenience of the subjects of this state, inhabitants of the eastern shore,

Be it enacted, That the continental commissioner shall send to the treasurer of the eastern shore one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the said new bills, signed by him, which said bills shall be there signed by commissioners to be appointed by the governor and council, and shall be, by the treasurer of the eastern shore, exchanged for any continental bills of credit, or bills emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, or resolves of convention, brought in by any inhabitants of the eastern shore, or trustee as aforesaid, agreeable to the directions of this act, on or before the fifteenth day of March next; and if any balance should remain in the hands of the said treasurer on that day, he shall, with all convenient dispatch, thereafter transmit the same to the said continental commissioner, and also an account of the sums by him received, and the persons from whom received.

And, For the security of the said continental commissioner,

Be it enacted, That the said bills shall be sent to the treasurer of the eastern shore under such guard as the governor and council shall direct, and this state will indemnify the said commissioner against any loss of the said bills which may happen by such removal; and the said treasurer shall administer the oath or affirmation, as aforesaid, to any person requiring him to exchange any of the said continental bills of credit.

And be it enacted, That four tenths of the said new bills shall be subject to the order of congress, and six tenths of the said new bills shall be applied to exchanging our quota of the continental money, and the money issued by acts of assembly under the old government, or resolves of convention; and so much of the six tenths of the new continental bills as shall remain after the exchanging our quota of the continental bills of credit, and our money issued under the resolves of the convention and acts of assembly under the old government, shall be retained by the treasurer of the western shore in his office, subject to be exchanged for the bills of credit emitted under the act to enable the treasurer of the western shore to draw and sell bills of exchange, and for an emission of bills of credit if necessary, to any person or persons applying for the same.

And be it enacted, That so many of the last mentioned bills of credit which may be brought in by exchange, and any money which may hereafter be paid into the treasury, for or on account of bonds due from the inhabitants of this state, shall be retained by the treasurer in his office, so that the sum to be emitted in virtue of this act shall not, with the sum issued under the aforesaid act to enable the treasurer of the western shore to draw and sell bills of exchange, and for an emission of bills of credit if necessary, exceed the sum recommended by congress to be issued.

And be it enacted, That where any debt, covenant, contract, promise, or agreement, unless for gold or silver, or sterling money, or unless the contract was made and intended to prevent the payment of any of the said bills, hath been created or made between the first of September seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and the twentieth of April seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, the debtor, or person bound in such debt, covenant, promise, contract, or agreement, may, at any time hereafter, pay or discharge the same in the said new bills of credit, or the bills emitted by the act of assembly, entitled, An act to enable the treasurer of the western shore to draw and sell bills of exchange, and for an emission of bills of credit if necessary, by paying in such bills, in the case of money lent, two thirds of the real value at the time of the loan, and in case of contracts upon sales of property, by paying two thirds of the real value of the money at the time the same was made payable, so that the loss of the creditor and that of the debtor may fall as equally on each as the nature of the case will admit; and in case of difference between the parties, such value to be ascertained, on application of either, by persons to be appointed by the county court where the debtor resides, whose determination shall be final; and where any debt, covenant, contract, promise, or agreement, unless for gold or silver, or sterling money, or unless the contract was made and intended to prevent the payment of any of the said bills, hath been made or entered into on the said twentieth day of April, seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, and between that time and the twelfth of June last, or that hath been made since the said twelfth of June for continental currency, or for convention money, or bills issued by the acts of assembly under the old government, the debtor, or person bound in every such debt, covenant, contract, promise, or agreement, may at any time hereafter discharge the same, by paying or tendering one dollar of the said new bills, or bills emitted by the said act, for every forty dollars due or payable; and if the said new bills, or bills emitted as aforesaid, should hereafter depreciate and become of less value than they now are, such depreciation shall be accounted for and paid by the debtor, or person tendering payment of one dollar of the new for every forty dollars of the old money aforesaid. Provided always, that if any person hath refused or neglected to pay money lent after a demand made, or if any person hath broke his contract, by neglecting to make payment for the property sold at the time limited, or if any person hath neglected to pay his debt at the day appointed for payment, and the time of payment was expressly agreed and understood to be part of the contract (the common case of passing bonds with a day of payment, in which neither party considered the day to be part of the contract, excepted) and to discover the intention in case of specialty or otherwise, either party may give indifferent testimony, or on convenient notice examine the other on oath, nothing in this act shall prevent the person injured by such breach of contract from suing for and recovering damages equal to the loss sustained by such breach, such damages not to exceed

be real value of the money contracted, to be paid at the time of breach, with intereſt, and ſuch damages may be laid and aſſeſſed in the new money, and ſo much thereof given or recovered as may be equal to the value of the debt or damages as aforeſaid, with intereſt.

And be it enacted, That all debts, promiſes, contracts, covenants, and agreements, hereafter made by writing or parol for gold or ſilver, or paper money, ſhall be paid, diſcharged, or executed, agreeable to the bond, bill, note, or other inſtrument in writing, or the parol, promiſe, or agreement, and the intent and meaning of the parties, any law to the contrary hereof notwithſtanding; and where any debt, promiſe, or contract, made before the firſt day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, has been renewed ſince that day, and any bond, bill, note, or other inſtrument of writing, given or executed for the ſame, or where any debt, covenant, promiſe, contract, or agreement, has been bonâ fide created or made, ſince the firſt day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, for gold, ſilver, or ſterling, in ſuch caſes the bills of credit iſſued by congreſs, or emitted by any acts of aſſembly, under the old government, or reſolves of convention, ſhall not (after the paſſing of this act) be a tender or payment in law or equity for any ſuch debt, covenant, promiſe, contract, or agreement.

And be it enacted, That the bills of credit iſſued by congreſs, or emitted by any acts of aſſembly under the old government, or reſolves of convention, ſhall not, after the paſſing this act, be a tender or payment in law or equity, for any debt, covenant, promiſe, contract, or agreement, created or made before the firſt day of September, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, unleſs where the creditor has not become a ſubject and reſident of this or ſome one of the United States, ſince the ſaid firſt day of September, ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix, and in ſuch caſe the debtor of ſuch creditor, or of his aſſignee (who has not become a ſubject and reſident of this or ſome one of the United States, and who hath not had an attorney in fact, acknowledging himſelf as ſuch for the purpoſe of receiving debts always ſince that time, and conſtantly reſiding within this ſtate ſince the ſaid firſt day of September, ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix) and the executor or adminiſtrator of ſuch debtor may, and he is hereby authoriſed, on making oath (or affirmation, if a quaker, menoniſt, or dunker) to be lodged with the treaſurer, that he hath received, for debts due before the firſt of September ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix, to him or the perſon to whom he is heir, executor, adminiſtrator, or repreſentative, to the amount by him in ſuch oath or affirmation ſpecified, and that he hath not paid for debts due before that time, by himſelf or the perſon to whom he is heir, executor, adminiſtrator, or repreſentative, above the ſum in ſuch oath or affirmation ſpecified, or on making oath or affirmation, to be lodged with the treaſurer, that before the twentieth day of April, ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-nine, he ſold property for the purpoſe of paying debts by him, or the perſon to whom he is heir, executor, adminiſtrator, or repreſentative, contracted before the firſt day of September, ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy ſix, and that he conſtantly kept the money by him received, or ſo much of the ſame, or other money, as he ſhall ſpecify in his oath or affirmation, or that, before the ſaid twentieth day of April, he ſold property for the purpoſe of paying his debts as aforeſaid, and that he left the money in the hands of the purchaſer, where it remains, for the purpoſe of paying his debts as aforeſaid, ſuch debtor may pay, to either of the treaſurers of this ſtate, the amount of the money by him received and kept as aforeſaid, or left as aforeſaid, or the balance by him received above what he hath paid as aforeſaid, or any part thereof, in diſcharge of the debt due to ſuch creditor, in the ſaid continental, convention, or bills of credit emitted by acts of aſſembly under the old government aforeſaid, on or before the twentieth of March next, or in the ſaid new bills of credit, or bills emitted under the act to enable the treaſurer of the weſtern ſhore to draw and ſell bills of exchange, and for an emiſſion of bills of credit if neceſſary, at the rate of one dollar of the ſame bills for every forty dollars due and payable at any time before the firſt day of July next; and ſuch payment ſhall be deemed in law a payment of ſuch creditor or his aſſignee, and the treaſurer's receipt ſhall be good evidence in the courts of law and equity of the payment of ſuch debt, and ſhall be allowed ſufficient in the courts of law and equity, and in the orphans courts, on the adminiſtration of the eſtates of deceaſed perſons, and the treaſurers ſhall exchange any continental, convention, and bills emitted by acts under the old government, by him ſo received for new bills, at the rate of one for forty, and the ſame, together with all new bills, and bills emitted by the ſaid act of aſſembly, which may be paid for the purpoſe aforeſaid, ſhall retain in his office, liable to the attachment of creditors, and ſubject to the future direction of the general aſſembly.

And be it enacted, That where any executor, adminiſtrator, guardian, truſtee, or factor, has received any of the ſaid bills of credit, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch executor, adminiſtrator, guardian, truſtee, or factor, and he is hereby authoriſed to pay and diſcharge to the amount of the money by him actually and bonâ fide received, in the new bills of credit, at the ſaid rate of one dollar of the ſaid new bills for every forty dollars by him received. Provided always, that if the executor, adminiſtrator, guardian, truſtee, or factor, hath not paid away the money by him received in the aforeſaid bills of credit, in a courſe of adminiſtration, or otherwiſe expended it in purſuance of the truſt repoſed in him, or kept the ſame by him, but hath converted the ſame to his own uſe, in any manner, except by lending the ſame, then ſuch executor, adminiſtrator, guardian, truſtee, or factor, ſhall be accountable, on oath or affirmation, for the value of the money ſo received, at the time the ſame was as aforeſaid converted to his own uſe.

And be it enacted, That the bills of credit, emitted by the act of aſſembly to enable the treaſurer of the weſtern ſhore to draw and ſell bills of exchange, and for an emiſſion of bills of credit if neceſſary, and the act for ſinking the quota required by congreſs of this ſtate of the bills of credit emitted by congreſs, and the bills of credit to be emitted in virtue of this act, ſhall be a tender for all debts contracted before the firſt day of September ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix, and all debts for gold, ſilver, or ſterling, contracted ſince that day and before the twelfth day of June laſt, at the paſſing current value of the ſaid bills of credit at the time of tender, and not otherwiſe, that value to be aſcertained by a jury.

And be it enacted, That all that ſpace of time from the firſt day of July one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſeven, to the paſſing of this act, ſhall not be reckoned or conſidered as part of the time limited by law for bringing or proſecuting any action or ſuit for recovery of any debt due by judgment, bond, bill, note, account, contract, or otherwiſe, and this act and the ſpecial matter may be given in evidence on the general replication.

And be it enacted, That no ſuit ſhall be commenced or proſecuted by any creditor againſt his debtor, for a debt contracted before the firſt day of September ſeventeen hundred and ſeventy-ſix, or after that day and before the twelfth day of June laſt, for gold, ſilver, or ſterling, in leſs than two years from the paſſing this act, unleſs the debtor ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay the intereſt annually due on ſuch debt, in gold or ſilver, or new bills at the value, in thirty days after a demand made, or hath removed or ſhall be about to remove himſelf or his effects out of this ſtate, or ſhall refuſe to renew his obligation, with ſecurities if required, by his creditors. Provided always, that this act ſhall not be extended to actions to be proſecuted againſt guardians, executors, adminiſtrators, or truſtees, and that the ſaid time ſhall not be taken or held as part of the time limited by law for proſecuting ſuch ſuits.

And be it enacted, That the commiſſioner of the continental loan-office ſhall not allow for continental bills of credit any other rate of exchange than one dollar of the new bills for forty dollars continental currency, and ſo much of the act, entitled, An act for ſinking the quota required by congreſs of this ſtate of the bills of credit emitted by congreſs, as directs a different rate of exchange, ſhall be and is hereby repealed and made void.

Paid

HAGUE, *July* 9.

WE hear that there is no more talk of the holding of a congrſs here; her majeſty the empreſs of Ruſſia having ſignified her deſire to have the conference held at Peterſburgh, the ſtates general have in conſequence appointed, on the propoſal of the prince ſtadtholder, Meſſ. de Waſſonaar de Starrenburgh, and de Heekeren de Brantzenburgh, deputies to the aſſembly of their high mightineſſes, from the provinces of Holland and Weſt-Friſeland and of Utrecht, miniſters plenipotentiaries to go to Peterſburgh, in order to aſſiſt at the conferences to be held there for the protection of neutral commerce.

Aug. 17. Meſſ. Jean, Texier, and co. merchants, of Amſterdam, preſented a memorial to the ſtates general, on the 9th of this month, ſetting forth, "That the arbitrary conduct of the court of Great Britain, in ſtopping the veſſels of this republic, even though not laden with contraband goods, was a great hindrance to the tra in general, and particularly prejudicial to the as they could not execute the commiſſion of th foreign correſpondents by ſea with any ſafe that they were therefore determined to ſend th commiſſions of hemp, copper, &c. for wh they had orders from France, by the way of R bant, until ſuch time as the naval force of t republic is upon a proper footing effectually protect the trade; that they only required fur of their high mightineſſes, that they would empt thoſe merchandiſes which they expect ſoon to receive from Peterſburgh and Hamburg from the duties of coming in, going out, a tranſit, as they meant immediately to ſhip t ſaid merchandiſe for France, by the way of Br bant."

The raiſing of ſailors for our fleet goes with great ſucceſs.

Paris, Aug. 2. A number of troops are di marching towards Normandy and Bretagne, it is ſaid that camps will be formed next mo near the coaſts of thoſe provinces

Aug. 10. Of nineteen ſhips of the line wh are in Breſt road, including the Hector and V liant, which arrived on the firſt of this mon three, with two frigates and a cutter, are ini from thence. Theſe are the St. Eſprit, of guns, the Auguſta of 80, and Northumberla of 74. The frigates are the Glory and Concor and the cutter is the Leverette. The deſtinati of this ſquadron is not ſaid.

Aug. 11. We hear that four corſairs of Du kirk have attacked, in the North Sea, a fleet 52 ſail of Engliſh merchantmen, eſcorted by frigate, and that they have taken ſeveral of the which they carried into the ports of Denmark.

It is reported, that the court of Liſbon ſee little diſpoſed to accede to the treaty of arm neutrality, which was propoſed to her by t count de Neſſelrode, miniſter plenipotentiary fro Ruſſia. It is further ſaid, that the king of Spa has cauſed it to be declared to the queen of Po tugal, "That if her Moſt Faithful Majeſty co tinued to treat with ſuch marks of diſtinction t Engliſh ſhips, to receive into her ports the prizes, and permit them even to be ſold the his catholic Majeſty would look upon that pr ceeding as tending to deſtroy entirely the uni that ſubſiſts between the two courts, &c.

Cadiz, Aug. 5. The combined fleet, whi ſailed the 10th of July, returned here again the 28th, having found nothing to do in th cruiſe, and they put to ſea again on the 30th.

Liſbon, Aug. 1. The Engliſh men of war a privateers continue to take and bring into o port ſuch Dutch merchantmen as they meet wit laden for the enemy's account, and, in ſpite repeated repreſentations, ſell their cargoes. Th publicly ſold yeſterday, to the higheſt bidder, t cargoes of the ſhips le Buitenwert and la Neutr litee.

Ratiſbon, Sept. 17. On Wedneſday morni laſt a fire broke out at Straubing in Lower Ba varia, which in leſs than fourteen hours conſum ed two large churches, one convent, two three public edifices, and upwards of 180 p vate houſes, making in all nearly half the tow The damage is eſtimated at upwards of 500,00

Madrid, Sept. 11. It is ſaid here that the e peror of Morocco has permitted the Spaniards attack Engliſh veſſels under the cannon of h forts, and to purſue them on his coaſts.

We have accounts from Cadiz, that the com bined fleet entered that port the 29th of la month, and that the Engliſh troops, who we priſoners on board, will be landed at St. Mari where all the other priſoners and paſſengers ar and from whence they will be ſent to Cordova.

Stockholm, Sept. 19. The following is the ſub ſtance of the report of captain Harald Chriſtier of the Black Eagle, a Swediſh frigate, which h appeared in the public papers, dated Spithea July 29, viz.

"That having ſailed from Helſingor, as co voy to the merchantmen confided to his care, perceived on the 16th of July, at noon, off th Start, in the Engliſh channel, two armed veſſe bearing down on the convoy; upon which h ordered all the veſſels to keep as near him as po ſible, and prepared for battle. About two o'cloc he ſaw one of the armed veſſels, which hoiſte Engliſh colours, ſent out her boat to a veſ which did not belong to his convoy, but ho Swediſh colours; upon which captain Ste hoiſted his colours, and fired one gun, which th armed veſſel did not mind, but boarded the abo veſſel, who ſtruck her colours; that he th thought he ought to repel force by force, ac accordingly fired 22 times with 12 pounders the privateer, whom he obliged to leave the ve ſel, and upon returning to his convoy he foun the other armed veſſel had dared to ſend out boat towards two of his convoy, but after firin many ſhot at her, he obliged her to ſheer off that after this he brought the veſſels under h

care safe to their destinations, but that a long passage and contrary winds obliged him to put into Spithead, to refresh his people, and take in necessaries, &c. and that he had been treated in that port with every attention due to a commander of a Swedish ship of war."

LONDON, *Oct.* 11.

Saturday private advices were brought to town from France, and immediately sent to the king at Windsor. We learn that they contain the particulars of the intended military and naval reinforcement going to America, and that instead of 8 sail of the line and 7000 men, 12 sail of the line and 10,000 choice troops are ordered on that service.

Government have received dispatches from General Vaughan, dated at St. Lucia, with accounts that the army is in the most lamentable situation from sickness, nearly one half of the nominal troops being, at this time, totally disabled. What is very singular, he mentions that the 98th regiment in particular has suffered so much from the prevailing contagion, that there is not one man in it capable of bearing arms.

Extract of a letter from Amsterdam, Sept. 30.

"On the 25th a congress brig, mounting 18 guns, arrived from America in the Texel, and immediately landed two gentlemen, who, it appears, are going to Copenhagen, as resident and secretary from the congress; their names were Brown and Williams, and they were to set off from this city, on their journey to Denmark, to-morrow.

Dispatches of great consequence are said to have arrived yesterday from the continent, supposed to be an official confirmation of the queen of Portugal's acceding not only to the armed neutrality, but to an alliance with the house of Bourbon; in consequence of which, a meeting of all the great officers of state was held last night at lord Hillsborough's office, the particulars of which have not yet transpired.

The commitment of Mr. Laurens to the Tower of London, by the three secretaries of state, on Friday last, runs thus:

"These are in his majesty's name to authorise you to receive into your custody the person of Henry Laurens, Esq; sent herewith on suspicion of high treason, whom you are to keep safe until he shall be delivered by due course of law: for doing this is your warrant.

Dated at Whitehall, the 6th day of Oct. 1780.

STORMONT,
HILLSBOROUGH,
G. GERMAIN.

To Charles earl Cornwallis,
constable of the Tower of
London, or his deputy.

A great fire broke out on the 16th of August last, at Salonica, in the Levant, which burnt down above six hundred houses, the greatest part of which belonged to Jews, who have thereby lost all they possessed in that city.

The grand fleet are not to sail from Torbay, until the fleet for America are ready to sail, which are expected the first fair wind.

The outward bound ships, which escaped being taken on the 9th of August, were underwrote last night at forty guineas per cent.

Extract of a letter from Paris, September 26.

"The prince de Montabarrey, minister and secretary of state for the war department, has sent circular letters to the commanders of all the French and foreign regiments of infantry, acquainting them, that it is the king's intention that the different corps which the war has required to be sent to America, shall be compleated: and that to this effect, each regiment shall furnish a detachment, consisting of two sergeants three corporals, and seventy five soldiers, excepting only such regiments as have already furnished detachments for the service of his majesty's navy, and which are now only to furnish a proportionate number of men. The minister recommends to prefer such men as shall offer voluntarily, declaring unto them, that they are to be incorporated into the regiments of land troops actually serving in America: and he further observes, that these detachments should only consist of men from the age of 18 to 30, or such as have been at sea, though they should happen to be older; but that if a sufficient number should not enter voluntarily his majesty's will and pleasure was notwithstanding to be executed.

"Our letters from Brest mention, that the workmen in that port are busily employed in sheathing with copper all the ships that are destined for North-America, under the command of monsieur de la Touche Treville. The second division of the army, under the command of count de Rochambeau, which is to embark on board the said squadron, consists of the regiments of Auvergne, Meustri, Rouergne, and Annalt, commanded by their colonels the viscount de Laval, count de Guibert, viscount de Guistine, and the count de Wirgenstein."

DUBLIN, *Oct.* 17. It is feared the severities exercised by lord Cornwallis on the relapsed Americans, will be attended with very ill consequences by exposing any of the American refugees who may be so unhappy as to fall into the hands of their countrymen to a like fate, and thus open a scene of blood, too horrid to reflect on.

RICHMOND, *Dec.* 16.

Extract of a letter from an officer, dated camp, New-Providence, Nov. 26, 1780.

"General Sumpter, who was on his march with 700 men against the enemy posted at Ninety-Six, was last week attacked by colonel Tarliton, who had 650 foot, and 200 horse or mounted infantry; the former finding an action unavoidable, took post on advantageous ground, well covered with plenty of good timber. Tarliton charged twice, but was each time repulsed, and at length obliged to quit the field, leaving behind 93 men killed, and 80 wounded too bad to ride. In the engagement general Sumpter received a wound in the left shoulder.

"Colonel Marian has been successful in two late skirmishes, in one, which happened the 9th instant, he took from the British, 24 prisoners, and 80 horses, arms, &c. &c.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec, 12.

Last Saturday captain Durham, in a schooner, arrived here in 18 days from Cape François. Letters received by her contain the following accounts, concerning the hurricane, which has been so severely felt in the islands, viz.

"Cape François, Oct. 29, 1780.

"We learn that, besides the hurricane, they have had at Jamaica an earthquake and an irruption of a vulcano. The town of Savannah la Marr is totally destroyed, excepting only one house: many other towns and villages have met a similar fate. The town of Kingston only has escaped with little damage. Several vessels were lost in Port-Royal, one of which was a privateer of 22 guns, which was ready to have proceeded on her cruise. The English have also suffered other losses, no less considerable. Two of their ships, one of 74 and the other of 64 guns, were wrecked upon the Golden Keys, and the whole crews perished, excepting five men, who were saved by a Spanish goelette; one of their frigates and a privateer ran ashore on the isle of Cuba; some of their crews were saved by the Spaniards.

"There has been also an insurrection of the negroes at Jamaica: the governor was obliged to march a regiment to reduce them to order; such is the unhappy situation of that island. Our islands and those of the Spaniards suffered equally by the hurricane. The losses cannot be made up for a long time, and especially as the distractions of war will not admit of such reciprocal relief as would tend considerably to soften the calamities.

"The squadron commanded by M. de Monteuil, which had been driven by the hurricane into Porto-Rico, is now on a cruise, in search of unfortunate vessels as may need assistance: he has already preserved the crews of five vessels from Martinique, which were lost on the coast of Porto-Rico, and were part of a convoy of 54 sail from Europe. Seven others of this convoy are arrived at the Cape, in the most distressed situation; the fate of the others is not yet known."

Extract of a letter from Trenton, New-Jersey, to a gentleman in this city, dated Dec. 9.

"The trade of this town has done themselves the highest honour by giving a full and immediate currency to the new bills of credit, issued in pursuance of the resolutions of congress of the 18th of March last. As soon as it was known a bill was before the legislature for regulating the exchange, they took them at par with specie, even previous to its being enacted into a law. If the same disposition prevails in your city, the object is attained, and that it does I have no room to doubt, after seeing the comparative value of the old continental bills and specie fixed to a point by voluntary agreement of the citizens. The rate you have adopted prevails far and wide: the trade of your city can give it such operation. They who can do so much good, can also do a proportionate harm. Remember how much depends upon your integrity and patriotism. It is the interest of every honest man, that money should not fluctuate; it is the interest of every sharping speculator, who encreases his gain by filching from his virtuous neighbours, that it should: this is the contest. Let us attend to it, and do what honesty and our country justly require of us."

BALTIMORE, *Dec.* 19.

The loss by the inundation of the sea upon the parishes of Montego-bay, Savannah la Mar, and St. Lucea, in Jamaica, is computed at one million sterling.

The Talbot, an American armed vessel, laden with tobacco, for Bordeaux, is taken and carried into Plymouth by the British frigate Crescent.

The brig Lively, of 12 guns, and 33 men, from Maryland, bound to Bordeaux, with 96 hogsheads of tobacco, and 1 ditto of furs, is taken and sent into Bristol, in England.

An American brig of 12 guns and 36 men, laden with 140 hogsheads of tobacco, 1 of 11 sail from Virginia, bound to the Texel, was carried into Leith road on the 8th of September last, by the Pegasus frigate. The Apollo was left in chase of two more.

An embarkation of troops was, a few days ago, taking place at New-York.—Report says that these troops, (amongst which are brigadier-general Arnold and his corps) are designed for a southern expedition, under the command of major-general Phillips.

Nine sail of men of war of the line and a number of transports, with about 4000 troops on board, are now on their passage from France to America.

THERE is at the plantation of John Gray ston of Joshua, a large red and white stray BULL; the mark appears to be one under cut on the left ear only, the horns seem to have a little bit cut off the ends of them. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 100 100 Dollars

Charles county, August 23, 1780.

BROKE gaol yesterday evening and made their escape, the two following fellows, to wit: A negro man committed to my custody as a runaway, on the 21st of July last, by the name of GEORGE, the property of John Nelson, (I have been since informed of Frederick county) he is a small fellow, and appears to be young, he is a Guinean, but speaks tolerable good English, and appears to be very artful and cunning; had on and took with him when he made his escape, an old white linen shirt, a country linen ditto, a pair short linen breeches, and a felt hat And a negro man named PETER, the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, committed to my custody on the 10th inst. for poisoning, he is much stricken in years, and talks bad English; had on a country linen shirt, and old country cloth breeches. Whoever apprehends the said negroes, and secures them in any gaol, so that I get them again, shall receive a reward of one hundred and fifty continental dollars for each, or either of them, and all reasonable charges paid, and if brought home to me, one dollar for every mile above thirty. tf

BENJAMIN CAWOOD, jun. sheriff.

November 13, 1780.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the vestrymen, churchwardens, and other inhabitants of St. Paul's parish, in Prince-George's county, intend in due time to prefer a petition to the legislature, for the support of the christian religion in that parish, for repairing the church, and other parochial charges. 5 8w

December 14, 1780.

To be SOLD at PUBLIC SALE, on Saturday the 30th instant, at Elk-Ridge Landing, 2

TWO likely young NEGROES, the one a BOY and the other a GIRL. The sale to begin between two and three o'clock.

THERE is at the plantation of Ignatius Handman, at Newport, in Charles county, a large brindled STEER, marked with a crop and a hole and an under bit in the right ear, and a crop and slit in the left. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 3w 2

THERE is at the plantation of John Bruce, near Piscattaway church, in Charles county, a small black BULL, about three years old, marked with a crop in the right ear, and a swallow-fork in the left. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 3 X 3w

In CONGRESS, *Dec.* 6, 1780.

While congress are sensible of the patriotism, courage and perseverance of the officers and privates of their regular forces, as well as of the militia throughout these United States, and of the military conduct of the principal commanders in both; it gives them pleasure to be so frequently called upon to confer marks of distinction and applause for enterprises which do honour to the profession of arms, and claim a high rank among military atchievements: in this light they view the enterprise against fort St. George on Long-Island, planned, and conducted with wisdom and great gallantry, by major Tallmadge, of the light dragoons, and executed with intrepidity and compleat success by the officers and soldiers of his detachment:

Ordered therefore, That major Tallmadge's report to the commander in chief be published, with the preceding minute, as a tribute to distinguished merit, and in testimony of the sense congress entertain of this brilliant service.

Extract from the minutes,
CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

Fairfield, November 25, 1780.

SIR,

I HAD the honour to receive your excellency's orders of the 11th instant. On the 16th following, in obedience to which, a detachment of colonel Sheldon's dismounted dragoons under the command of captain Edgar, were ordered to march the next day to Fairfield, to which place I directed a number of boats to repair. The troops arrived in the vicinity of Fairfield on the evening of the 18th, at which place, by reason of a very severe storm, we were detained till the 21st instant; on the evening of which, at four o'clock, I embarked the troops in eight boats: the whole in number, including the crews, amounted to about eighty men. With a favourable wind we landed safely on Long-Island, at a place called the Old Man's, about eight o'clock the same evening. After leaving about twenty men with the boats in charge of captain Sutton, we began our march to put your excellency's orders in execution: but a very severe storm coming on, however it might have favoured an attack on the fort, obliged me to postpone it, as I was well aware that attention must be paid as well to a favourable time for re-crossing the sound (which is at this place more than 20 miles wide) as to attacking the fort. I accordingly concealed the troops till the evening of the 22d, when, at seven o'clock, we began our march across Long-Island, and, at three o'clock the next morning, were within two miles of fort St. George at South-Haven. By the most accurate information I found that the fort and other works had been entirely compleated but a few days before, and that the garrison consisted of about fifty men. It may be necessary here to observe, that the works of fort St. George consisted of two large strong houses, and a fort about 90 feet square, connected together by a very strong stockade or line of sharpened pickets 12 feet long: the whole forming a triangle, the fort and houses standing in the angles. The fort consisted of a high wall and deep ditch, encircled with a strong abattis, having but one gate a sally-port, which led directly into the grand parade within the pickets. This fort had embrasures for six guns, though but two were mounted: the houses were strongly barricaded. From this description I found it necessary, small as my detachment was, to make three different attacks at the same time. I accordingly detached lieutenant Jackson with 16 men, with orders to advance as nigh the fort as he could, undiscovered, and there to halt till the alarm was given by the advance of the detachment under my immediate command. The van of this detachment, who carried axes to beat down obstructions, was led by lieutenant Brewster, directly against the new house, while the remainder, with captain Edgar and myself at their head, followed close after. Another small division was directed to file off and surround the other house; Mr. Simmons bringing up the rear, with directions to halt where the breach might be made, to prevent the garrison from escaping. Thus prepared, the troops were put in motion precisely at four o'clock, and, contrary to my expectations, the pioneers advanced within twenty yards of the works before they were discovered. The centinel firing, the different detachments immediately rushed on, and passing all obstructions met at the same instant in the centre of the fort, where the watch word was given from all quarters at the same time. The guard in the fort was secured; but the two houses contained the main body of the garrison, who began to fire from the windows. I immediately ordered the troops to enter the houses, the doors of which, though strongly bolted and barred, were soon burst open, and in less than ten minutes the whole garrison were our prisoners.

Being informed that a vessel lay within view of the fort, loaded with stores, rum, wine, sugar, glass, &c. I detached a party who boarded and took her. Thus masters of the whole, my first object was to demolish, as much as possible, their works, &c. We accordingly set fire to the small garrison, buildings, stockade and abattis, consuming at the same time the public stores that could be collected, including a considerable quantity of ammunition and arms, which the troops so much fatigued, and having so long a march to make back, could not carry. We remained at the fort from four to eight o'clock in the morning, when having destroyed as much of it as possible, we began our march back. The vessel being aground was burnt.

I have the honour to enclose your excellency a return of the prisoners; the arms and other public stores to a considerable amount were, as I before mentioned, chiefly destroyed. The soldiers brought off a few articles of cloathing and other things, which though small, (as we endeavoured to keep them as light as possible that they might not fail on their march) I trust your excellency will permit to be distributed among them.

I feel peculiarly happy that I can inform your excellency, that we had not a man killed in this enterprise, and but one wounded; him we brought off. The enemy's loss was seven killed and wounded, most of the latter, mortally. the surprise was so compleat, that before they could rally they were all prisoners.

On our return, I mounted ten men on the horses taken at the fort, and, while captain Edgar marched the detachment and prisoners across the island, I filed off, with lieutenant Brewster, to Coram, and set fire to the whole magazine of the king's forage at that place, supposed to contain more than 300 tons, and joined the detachment again in less than two hours. By this time the militia began to muster, but prudently avoided coming near us. Some guns were fired, but no damage received. By 4 o'clock the afternoon of the same day we reached our boats, and having embarked the troops and prisoners arrived safe at this place at 11 o'clock on the evening of the 23d. Thus, in about 21 hours, we performed a march of near forty miles, took fort St. George, &c. &c. and in less than 6 hours more were landed at this place.

I should be remiss in my duty, should I omit to observe that the officers and soldiers under my command behaved with the greatest fortitude and spirit, both upon their long and fatiguing march, and in the moment of action. Mr. Muirson, a volunteer upon the occasion, deserves commendation. He advanced with a part of lieutenant Jackson's detachment over the abattis and wall into the fort. In fine, every order that was given was executed with alacrity and precision.

I have the honour to be,
with great respect and esteem,
sir, your excellency's most obedient
and humble servant,
BENJAMIN TALLMADGE,
Major 2d L. D.

His excellency general Washington.

P. S. I have enclosed a rough draft of the fort for your excellency's information.

The standard of the fort will be sent forward with the prisoners.

Return of prisoners taken in fort St. George.

1 Half pay lieutenant-colonel,
1 Half pay captain,
1 Lieutenant,
1 Surgeon,
50 Rank and file

54.
1 Garrison standard.

(Annapolis, Nov. 30, 1780.

GOOD ALLUM SALT to be disposed of in barter for PORK by
JAMES WILLIAMS,

FOR SALE,

A STRONG healthy NEGRO MAN, 22 years of age, has served 12 years in a merchant mill, and is complete in that business. No other motive than his having attempted to escape to the enemy induces the proprietor to dispose of him. Any person desirous to purchase is requested to apply to colonel William Fitzhugh, Calvert county.

Office for stating and settling the public accounts.

THE commissioners find it necessary, for the public service, to give further notice, that the honourable assembly, at their March session, 1780, enacted a law, entitled "A supplement to the act for the assessment of property," the IVth section whereof is as follows,—" And be it enacted, That the several collectors, at the time of settlement of their accounts with the commissioners of the tax for their county, shall account to the said commissioners for the treble tax due by law in their counties respectively, and the said collectors shall pay the treble tax by them collected, or which by law they ought to collect, to the treasurer of his shore, at the time appointed by law for the payment of the public assessment, and in case of default they shall be answerable for and liable to pay an interest of per cent on the said sums; *and every collector who hath collected the treble tax, and omitted to pay the same into the treasury, and every collector who by law ought to have collected the treble tax, shall be accountable for the treble tax due by law in his county to the commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts.*"—And, whereas the duty enjoined by law on the collectors hath in many instances been totally neglected, and in others only in part complied with, the several collectors will therefore be pleased to take notice of the necessity there is for making due returns and payments regularly for the future, and that a report of the proceedings on this law will be laid before the honourable assembly at their next meeting.

Signed per order
T. GASSAWAY, Clk.

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500 CONTINENTAL DOLLARS REWARD.
Greenberry's-point, Oct. 2, 1780.

RAN away from the subscriber, the 2d of J[illegible] last, a negro woman named SUE; she is about forty years of age, very black, and has a wen on her brow by the border of her hair (or wool) the only certain mark to describe her by, as she has a variety of cloaths, among which there is a tartan gown, a white linen ditto, a calico ditto, a striped silk jacket, a new country made linsey woolsey jacket and petticoat, with others of country cloth, &c. When she went away, her intention was to go to Holland with a free mulatto named Mark Stubbs, a most notorious villain, who intended to pass her as his wife and free; he went from Baltimore in a [illegible] called the enterprise, and she was disappointed in her scheme by the ship not stopping at Annapolis; she has since, as I am informed, been [illegible] and harboured in Annapolis by Mr. Dulany's negroes, and in Baltimore county, between [illegible] town and Elk-ridge landing, by some free negroes and negroes of Mrs. Owings, who are [illegible] brother and daughters; she has been frequently in Baltimore town on Sundays, and at night [illegible] a mulatto woman's house named Sal [illegible] who lives among the French houses; she is [illegible] to Stubbs and harbours her. Any person [illegible] will secure her in any gaol in this or any other state shall receive the above reward, and [illegible] brought home reasonable charges, paid by
DAVID KER[illegible]

Charles county, October 18, 178[illegible]

I HAVE in my custody, committed [illegible] runaway, a negro man named HAR[illegible] who says he belongs to Patterson Fletcher [illegible] Culpepper county in Virginia; he is a short [illegible] set fellow, about twenty-four years of age, [illegible] speaks good English; had on when brought [illegible] gaol, an old white country cloth jacket, and [illegible] old pair of country linen trousers. His [illegible] is desired to pay charges and take him away.
BENJ. CAWOOD, jun. sheriff

TAKEN up as a stray, by Edward Ga[illegible] junior, at Elk-Ridge, a brown horse, a[illegible] fourteen hands high, with a small star, and [illegible] shod before, has some saddle spots, has [illegible] branded on the near buttock, but too imp[illegible] to be understood, trots and gallops, and is [illegible] posed to be about twelve years old. The [illegible] may have him again on proving property [illegible] paying charges.

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES [illegible] COURTS of JUSTICE, Nov. 3, 1780.

NOTICE is hereby given, that this [illegible] mittee will sit at the stadt-house fr[illegible] o'clock in the afternoon until 5 on each day [illegible] ing the present session of assembly.

By order,
G. RANKEN, cl. co[illegible]

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the POST-OFFICE in Charles-Str[illegible]